Sceneries of the Great War
Friuli Venezia Giulia is a large open-air museum of the First World War. Today, you can walk through the trenches and communication trenches built by Italian and Austro-Hungarian troops: you will hear the voice of history in suggestive landscapes and the echoes of distant battles.
They are here, a few metres one from the other. Imprisoned in the hard life in the trenches. The noise is deafening. The bursts of the machine guns are constant in the background. You will almost hear it all, when walking the communication trenches of the two opposing formations, Italian and Austro-Hungarian.

The sites of the First World War are everywhere in Friuli Venezia Giulia: where the wind resounds with the talk of the troops, intimate conversations on the longing for a girlfriend at home, on the suffering generated by a conflict that seems to never end.

The border again. Here the war took on crucial meanings. The 12 battles of Isonzo and the Northern front in Carnia and the Tarvisio area have left a deep scar not only on this region but on the nation as a whole.

Hundreds of thousand soldiers fought and died on these lands: several memorials, among them charnel houses and Austro-Hungarian graveyards were erected in their memory.

You can relive these convulsed pages of history down the path across the original trenches and communication trenches, built by the hands of the soldiers of the two opposing sides during that terrible conflict.

The whole Region is one vast open-air natural museum: plunging into history will be natural. Evocative landscapes and ancient emotions will imprint indelibly upon your memory.
Sceneries of the Great War

- Carnic Alps
- Julian Alps
- The valleys of the Great War
- The hills of Friuli
- The Carso Isontino
Trieste

Gorizia

Julian Alps

Drenchia

Mount Matajur

Mount Kolovrat

Solarie Pass

Udine

Monfalcone

Redipuglia

Mount San Michele

Mount Sei Busi

Tolmezzo

Osoppo

Arta Terme

Zitter Trail

Dogna

Pontebba

Tarvisio

HISTORICAL-MILITARY MUSEUM OF THE JULIAN ALPS

MUSEUM OF THE GREAT WAR OF GORIZIA

MUSEUM OF WAR FOR PEACE OF TRIESTE

Carnic Alps

Pal Piccolo

Pass of Mount Croce Carnico

Carnica

Tolmin

Lignano

Grado

Trieste

Diego de Henriquez Municipal Museum of War for Peace of Trieste

inheritDoc
If you wish to step into one of the harshest sceneries of the area, when the crudeness of the battle was made worse by the coarseness of the mountainous terrain where they were fought - now simply a shroud of vast and fascinating natural views - you will enter what was known as the Carnia Zone. This was the borderland between the Kingdom of Italy and the Hapsburg Empire, where the troops of the opposing sides were engaged in the conquest of the territory, inch by inch.

Walking the paths on the border mountains it will be easy to imagine the everyday life of the men involved in the bloody conflict. On Pal Piccolo, near the Pass of Monte Croce Carnico, you will find yourself on the crest of the mountain to discover the trenches, the communication trenches, the observation turrets, the tunnels, the blockhouses, the machine-gun pits and gun emplacements; here you will grasp the incredible proximity of the two lines of defence juxtaposed on the top of the mountain, only a few meters apart.

But up there, the trails were not used solely by soldiers and officers. There were women too, who became the heroines of history: the Carnic bearers who, constantly placing their lives in danger, were in contact with the front-line trenches, and brought hidden in their panniers food and ammunitions to the fighters.
Guarded on these mountains, the site of horrendous fighting, are trenches, communication trenches, turrets, tunnels and forts. And walking the paths of war, you will also encounter feminine prints: those of the heroic Carnic bearers.
Here the mountain tops are soaring, hard to conquer for the troops. Beyond the trenches, you will visit the caves, the shelters and the tunnels, a precarious refuge for relentless fighting. To break the stillness of absolute silence, the timeless echo of the sweet chanting of the Alpine troops.
n the summit of the Julian Alps, soaring peaks and mountain chains to be stormed, defended, and conquered, the war seemed to never end. From Pontebba, long a trading post towards the Hapsburg Empire and at the time divided by the Italo-Austrian border, the terrifying battles fought on the crests of the mountains resounded, where the formations were engaged in furious battles to secure strategic passageways. Trails, trenches, graves, shelters, tunnels, the remains of ropeways, traces of tiny graveyards up high on the mountain tops... these are lands with war scars that will you will observe from special trails, still drenched in the emotions of the man who sacrificed their youth here. Walk along the trails of the Alpine troops and the trenched line of the Plans in Val Dogna, the Ziffer Trail, through incredible sceneries across tunnels, slits and natural arches, and then the Centenary Track, that unwinds across defence system dug into the rock, immersed in an absolute stillness that is so eloquent. Suggestive itineraries that evoke wonder and awe, where the memories come vibrantly alive.
The Valleys of the Great
One portion of the second and third line of defence of the Italian Army ran along the Valleys of Natisone, the tragic sites of much of the fighting in the First World War. In the vicinity of the Solarie Pass, in the Municipality of Drenchia, you will walk through trenches and tunnels dug into the rock, you will admire the remains of military fortifications and constructions, you will take the same paths followed by young German General Rommel who, on Mount Matajur, gained his first victories.

Speaking of the important war operations in the area of Mount Kolovrat will be the trenches and cannon posts, that constitute a veritable open-air museum. Perhaps not everybody knows that it was on these mountains that died the first Italian soldier.
We are in the **Capital of the War.** It was here that the destiny of the Italian Eastern front was decided, in Udine, once a tranquil provincial town that during the First World War transformed into the seat of the Military High Command. And a self-respecting capital must be defended. Therefore the surrounding area, in the years before the Great War, was mightily fortified by the Italian army. The traces are still visible, in the wide **Valley of Tagliamento**, dotted with forts and former military constructions, later converted into warehouses or shelters. A microcosm where the signs of the conflict are numerous and tangible is represented by the **Fort of Osoppo**, part of ancient defence works dating back to different ages in time, that can be regarded as a natural monument in itself. By walking the fascinating underground Fort, you will encounter powder magazines, batteries, tunnels, and passages in the trenches.

**The Hills of Friuli**
Udine, the strategic seat on the Italian Eastern front, was protected by an articulated system of defence works that developed along the suggestive Valley of Tagliamento. You will discover much of it in small scale in the Fort of Osoppo, a national monument since 1923.
Propelled directly in this “nobody’s land”, sneaking peeks from the machine gun pits. To discover the places that inspired Ungaretti. Up to the monumental War Memorial of Redipuglia, where 100,000 soldier rest.
Giuseppe Ungaretti served in the Army here. In the trenches, along the communication trenches and down the narrow gorges that you will find in the Carso Isontino, which became the inspiration for his war poems. Carso again was also the site of one of the bloodiest battles to be fought in Europe. Even today, on the territory, you will relive the emotions of those times, through the numerous signs of that conflict: the craters left by the grenades and the bombs, the caves used as shelters and ammunition depots but most significantly the trenches and the communication trenches built by the soldiers with their hands. On Mount Sei Busi the positions of the two enemy liens are evident: you will walk along the Italian line and, looking through the slits where guns and machineguns were positioned, you will see the web of concertina wire and the enemy trenches, at times so close, separated simply by that so-called “nobody’s land”. Another key testimony is offered by the Dolina of the XV Bersaglieri, also known as the Dolina of the 500, because here were found 500 soldiers who are resting today in the suggestive War Memorial of Redipuglia. Climb atop Mount San Michele: the view is breathtaking on the scanries where the Great War was fought on the front of the Isonzo.
Monfalcone

Theme Park of the Great War

Human nature at its most touching. That you can experience by reading the writings carved by the soldiers along the itineraries that unwind on the peaks around Monfalcone, an authentic open-air museum on the conflict.

An articulated system of trenches dug on the top of the rise surrounding Monfalcone, represents today an authentic Theme park of the Great War: an open-air museum where you will find war posts, but also messages of hope and peace. Deeply moving writings and engravings, left by uncertain hands, can still be read along those itineraries. Walking in these places is like walking back in time, to the thoughts, emotions, and fears of those who lived in the trenches.
After the Great War, Trieste becomes Italian. And from the pier, the Molo Audace, you will discern the hazy outline of the first ship to dock here after the annexation. It is 1918...

**Trieste**, the town of a thousand faces, an important port and industrial centre of the Hapsburg Empire, becomes after its annexation to the Kingdom of Italy the main symbol of Italian conquests. From the **Hill of San Giusto**, surrounded by **Parco della Rimembranza** with its monuments in memory of the fallen combatants of Trieste during the two battles of the Great War, you will enjoy an evocative and incomparable panorama on a town with a markedly Hapsburg appeal. **Piazza dell’Unità d’Italia** offers a unique view of the **Molo Audace**, where on 3rd November 1918 the first Italian ship docked, a symbol of the annexation to Italy.
Museums
What the war was like.

Municipal Museum of War for peace “De Henriquez”

Originating from the collection of mementos and memorabilia of the Trieste scholar Diego de Henriquez (1909-1974).

The Museum consists of heavy and light armaments as well as a library and archives of military, civilian and cartographic materials. Other sections focus on telecommunications, sound reproduction, sphragistics, philately, military uniforms and headgear, prints paintings, medals, and a remarkable photographic library in terms of quantity and peculiarity of the subjects.

Museum of the Great War of Timau

Unpublished photos and Italian and Austrian antiques. Remembering also the Carnic Bearers.

The Museum offers a vast array of documents, unpublished photographs, and myriads of Italian and Austrian memorabilia, collected almost exclusively from the surrounding mountains, a telling testimony of the tragic war experience that saw Carnia as one of the key fronts of the first World War. Also abundant are references to the life of the civilian population on both sides of the front and a section devoted to the Carnic Bearers.
After a short presentation of the overall picture of the first World War, the Museum of the Great War of Gorizia brings the attention of the visitors to the events of the Italo-Austrian war on the front of the Isonzo to develop the crucial theme of life in the trenches. By walking through a faithfully reconstructed trench, the visitor will experience the narrow passages and the deafening noise that characterised the life of the troops with their suffering and discomfort.

From the front of the Isonzo, with the rattling of machine-guns and original uniforms of the time.

A hall of the Museum presents the First World War in the area between the upper Isonzo, Val Raccolana, Val Fella and Upper Carnia. Here one could find objects, weapons, uniforms, photos and maps related to the battles of Mount Nero, Mount Rombon, Due Pizzi, J of di Miezegnot. Also preserved here are the rolls of honour of the fallen soldiers of both sides of the front.

From the front of the Isonzo, with the rattling of machine-guns and original uniforms of the time.

Historical Military Museum of the Julian Alps

Among the items, the roll of honour of the fallen soldiers on both sides of the front.
Reenactments

The past is vividly alive in the memory of Friuli Venezia Giulia, with all the events that have left a profound mark on the territory and the culture of its inhabitants. The Region is host to several historical reenactments of crucial moments of the First World War. These are unique opportunities to plunge into history, in a suggestive backdrop of light and sound.

*To learn more about historical reenactments and their calendar, visit the website www.turismo.fvg.it
• **IN MAY**  
**Sunday 18 May Return to Carso**  
in Dolina dei Bersaglieri in Redipuglia.  
Organiser: Sentieri di Pace, www.prolocofoglianoredipuglia.it.

• **IN MAY**  
**Sunday 25 May**  
Commemorating history.  
Faithful reconstruction of an Italian encampment, with the presence of costume figures of the time, equipped with armaments and original equipment from 1915-18; by the “Fiamme verdi” group of the Valli del Natisone.  

• **IN OCTOBER**  
**Saturday 4 October** from 10.00 to 17.00  
in Passo Solarie on monte Kolovrat (Comune di Drenchia) European meeting of organising groups for commemorating the history of the First World War.  

• **IN NOVEMBER “MEMORY TRAIN”**  
**Sunday 8 November**  
People in uniform all day dressed as soldiers and red cross personnel, using a period steam engine convoy, acting various topical scenes from a journey of this sort of military troop train. The route: Redipuglia - Gorizia - Santa Lucia, and afterwards by coach to Caporetto (SLO), finally with various guided tours, given by expert companions, and a restaurant lunch.  
Organiser: Sentieri di Pace, www.prolocofoglianoredipuglia.it.
• Inauguration of the circular walk “Sentieri di pace/Poti miru”
March 2008
Cross-border route to Great War sites and along the “Cold War” frontier.
Organiser: Pro Loco Nediske Doline Valli del Natisone.
www.nediskedoline.it

• Inauguration of the completion of the Great War Theme Park
Monfalcone - Saturday 12 April
Organiser: Comune di Monfalcone.
www.comune.monfalcone.go.it

• Alpe Adria Militaria
Parco del Volo di Campoformido (Ud)
10-11 May / 11-12 October 2008
It deals with one of the most important historical exhibitions and market shows of objects from the military world that hundreds of collectors, antique dealers, and enthusiasts have collected. There are numerous stands from the weaponry and cultural associations, as well as those from the military divisions in Friuli Venezia Giulia that join the retail stalls of the more noted businessmen and antique dealers of Italy. You can also pilot aircraft using the flight simulator that is in the hangers of the building.
Organiser: Military Historical Center.
www.militaryhistoricalcenter.org

• Night-time walk Topolò - Kolovrat
24 May
Pedestrian itinerary that begins its ascent from Topolò along an impressive path with art installations. It reaches Monte Kuk in Slovenia with fascinating views of the Julian Alps and of the Friulian plane. It proceeds along the spine of the Kolovrat, First World War theatre, to reach the Rifugio Solarie; from here one takes the path back to Topolò.
Organiser: Pro Loco Nediske Doline Valli del Natisone.
www.nediskedoline.it

• Light and Shade on the Carso of the Great War
Monte Sei Busi, Dolina dei Bersaglieri
Every Thursday evening during July (10 - 17 - 24 - 31 July)
The show is constructed around a series of theatrical effects: illuminated silhouettes, background noises, a forceful musical soundtrack interspersed with diary readings, scenes from the lives of Italian and Austro-Hungarian soldiers.
Organiser: Sentieri di pace.
www.prolocofoglianoredipuglia.it

• A walk in the Valli del Natisone
18 - 26 July
In collaboration with Mittelfest, days dedicated to visits to the bunkers of monte Spik that symbolise the immediate militarisation of the Cold War, to the trenches of Monte Kolovrat that recall the tragedy of the First World War, to the art path of Topolò, to the Ethnographical Museum and to the Grotto of San Giovanni d’Antro.
Organiser: Pro Loco Nediske Doline Valli del Natisone.
www.nediskedoline.it

• XXXIV Congress of the International Commission of Military History (CIHM)
“Military conflicts and civil populations, total wars, limited wars, asymmetric wars”
31 August - 5 September 2008
The purpose of the congress is to analyse the wartime events from the standpoint of the civilians and their victims (or, more rarely of their benefits). It will take place in Trieste in the Centro Congressi della Stazione Marittima.
Organiser: Commissione Italiana di Storia Militare (CISM), istituzione del Ministero della Difesa affiliated to CIHM, to which 40 nations belong.
www.militaryhistoricalcenter.org

• Fanfare of the Bersaglieri gathering
27 September - Udine
Inauguration of the Monument to the Bersaglieri and the thematic exhibition with a history convention on the story of the Bersaglieri Division.
Organiser: Associazione Bersaglieri - Sezione di Udine in collaboration with the Military Historical Centre.
www.militaryhistoricalcenter.org

• Commemoration of the Battle of Pozzuolo del Friuli
30 October 2008
Commemorative the event that took place between 29th and 30th October 1917, in which the Cavalry Brigade, made up of the 4th Genova and 5th Novara and the Bergamo Infantry Brigade counteracted the Austro-Hungarian advance, allowing the Italian Third Army to cross the Tagliamento river undisturbed and make themselves safe. The event is concomitant with the Festa Nazionale dell’Arma di Cavalleria (National Festival of the Cavalry Corps).
Organiser: Brigata di Cavalleria del Friuli.
www.bpozzuolo.esercito.difesa.it

Other events
• Commemoration of the Battle of Monte di Ragogna and of the Tagliamento of 31 October - 01 November, 1917
  Ragogna - October 2008
  Commemoration of the battle that was strategic in retarding the advance of the Austro-hungarian and German armies and therefore allowed the retreating Italian army after the battle of Caporetto to consolidate its position along the line of the Piave river and create the conditions necessary for the final victory.
  Organiser: Comune di Ragogna.
  www.comune.ragogna.ud.it

• Guided tour from Passo Solarie to Monte Kolovrat
  Comune di Drenchia
  From 1 March to 30 November every Saturday and Sunday by booking
  Mount Kolovrat and Matajur awaken the true story of the “undoing of Caporetto”; the Great War that nobody has ever recounted. Bookable guided tours along the paths and trenches of the first world conflict.
  Organiser: Pro Loco Nediske Doline Valli del Natisone
  www.nediskedoline.it

• Excursions to the battlefields of the Isonzo
  Every second Sunday in the month
  Through these excursions you will come to know the history of the territory during the First World War, walking along the trenches, the tunnels and communication trenches of the combatant divisions.
  Organiser: Sentieri di pace.
  www.prolocofoglianoredipuglia.it

• Guided tour of the Fortress of Osoppo
  Osoppo - Every afternoon on non-work days by booking
  A guide will accompany you on a discovery of the secrets of the Fortress through a subterranean route or a trench route.
  Organiser: Pro Loco Osoppo.
  www.turism.friulicollinare.it

• Guided tour of the Museum of Great War Aviation
  Aeroporto di Campoformido (UD)
  Every Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 to 12.30 and from 15.00 to 18.00 there are guided tours in the Parco del Volo.
  Organiser: Associazione Military Historical Center.
  www.militaryhistoricalcenter.org

• Displays and exhibitions

  • Display on the end of the Great War
    From 21 October to 16 November, 2008
    Location: Centro Civico di Lucinico
    Organiser: Gruppo di ricerca storica Isonzo.
    www.isonzo-gruppodiricercastorica.it

  • “1918, return to Gorizia”
    October 2008 - January 2009
    Location: Castello di Gorizia
    Organiser: Comune di Gorizia.
    www.comune.gorizia.it

  • Italian prisoners in the Great War.
    Photo-diary of Peter Naglic
    October 2008 - January 2009
    Location: Musei Provinciali di Gorizia - Borgo Castello
    Organiser: Musei Provinciali di Gorizia.
    www.provincia.gorizia.it

  • Images and documents of Fondo Diaz
    24 October 2008 - 15 February 2009
    Location: Musei Provinciali di Gorizia - Borgo Castello
    Organiser: Musei Provinciali di Gorizia.
    www.provincia.gorizia.it

  • 1918, the horrible year of victory
    October/December 2008
    Location: Esedra di Levante di Villa Manin di Passariano
    Organiser: Comune di Codroipo.
    www.comune.codroipo.ud.it

  • “Ninety years after the end of the Great War”
    October/December 2008
    12 - 20 April
    Location: Fortezza Medio Tagliamento di Santa Margherita del Gruagno (Moruzzo)
    Organiser: Comune di Moruzzo.
    www.comune.moruzzo.ud.it


**Easy to reach, hard to forget**

**TURISMO FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA**
Piazza Manin, 10 loc. Passariano
33033 Codroipo ( Ud ) Italy
tel. +39 0432 815111
fax +39 0432 815199
info@turismo.fvg.it

0039 0432 734100

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL, SEND THIS COUPON TO:
AGENZIA TURISMOFVG, PIAZZA MANIN 10, 33033 CODROIPO (UD), ITALY, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE.

name ____________________________ surname ____________________________
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I hereby authorize the Agenzia TurismoFVG to communicate my details to both public and private tourist operators in order to receive information and promotional material relating to tourism initiatives in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region.

Under the terms of art. 13 of D. Lgs. 196/2003, I hereby informed that the office handling personal data is the Agenzia TurismoFVG. Data will be used exclusively for sending requested promotional material. The party concerned can at any time revoke use of this data by contacting the Agenzia TurismoFVG in person or by writing to info@turismo.fvg.it.

Further information regarding the usage of personal data is available on our website.

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